

Message Text

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TAGS: SHUM, OVIP, PEPR, US, GV
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF ISMAEL TOURE

REF: STATE 064168

1. HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSION WITH TOURE WOULD BE MOST
USEFUL.

2. RECOMMEND DISCUSSION FOLLOW LINE SET DURING PAST
MONTHS WITH HIGH-RANKING GUINEANS INCLUDING ISMAEL
HIMSELF. SUGGEST FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:

-- CARTER ADMINISTRATION HOPES TO ENCOURAGE GREATER
RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS NOT ONLY IN OTHER COUNTRIES
BUT IN AMERICA ITSELF.

-- PRIMIN BEAVOGUI'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK
SHOWED GUINEA IS OPEN TO DIALOGUE ON HUMAN RIGHTS.
HIS INVITATION FOR A DELEGATION TO VISIT GUINEA AND SEE
FIRST-HAND GUINEAN HUMANITARIAN PRACTICES HAS BEEN
TAKEN UP BY THE ICRC. WE HOPE ALSO THAT A HIGH US
OFFICIAL MAY ALSO ACCEPT DR. BEAVOGUI'S INVITATION IN
NEAR FUTURE (FYI PATT DERIAN).

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-- FRANKLY, MUCH PUBLICITY HARMFUL TO GUINEA RESULTED
FROM THE ILHR REPORT AND ALATA BOOK LAST YEAR. AT THE
SAME TIME NEW CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS HAVE FORCED
US TO JUSTIFY AID PROGRAM IN LIGHT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
CRITERIA.

-- THEREFORE, WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE GUINEA'S

IMAGE, OVERCOME BAD PUBLICITY, AND PREVENT ANY SITUATION WHICH MAY REDUCE PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR EXPANDED US AID AND INVESTMENT IN GUINEA. IT IS NOT US INTENTION TO CONDEMN OR EMBARRASS GUINEA. WE WISH INSTEAD TO COLLABORATE QUIETLY WITH YOU TO DEFUSE POTENTIAL POLITICAL OBSTACLES TO COOPERATION.

-- RECENT GUINEAN ACTS HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL IN SHOWING CONCERN FOR HUMANITARIAN MATTERS: THE JULY 1977 AMNESTY OF EXILES, THE RELEASE OF MANY PRISONERS IN LATE 1977, THE RATIFICATION OF UN HUMAN-RIGHTS CONVENTIONS IN JANUARY, THE RED CROSS VISIT. ANY FURTHER ACTS IN THIS SENSE WILL DO MUCH TO IMPLANT MORE SOLIDLY A GOOD BASIS FOR PERMANENT COOPERATION AND PUBLIC AND INVESTOR CONFIDENCE. FURTHER PRISONER RELEASES, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD ENHANCE PRESIDENT TOURE'S REPUTATION WORLDWIDE AS A MAN OF GREAT HISTORICAL VISION, MAGNANIMITY, AND INTERNAL RECONCILIATION AND DETENTE.

3. BELIEVE DISCUSSION SHOULD BE WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ISMAEL PERSONALLY AND SHOULD BE COUCHED IN LOW-KEY, PRACTICAL TERMS CONCERNING THE SIGNIFICANT BEARING HUMAN RIGHTS HAS ON US-GUINEAN RELATIONS AND POSSIBILITIES OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INVESTMENT.

4. TOURE IS TOUCHY BUT PRAGMATIC, INTERESTED IN EXPANDING
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ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE WEST. ACCUSATIONS OF WRONG-DOING WOULD TURN HIM OFF, BUT DISPASSIONATE DISCUSSION OF THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF IMPROVEMENT OF GUINEA'S HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE SHOULD CARRY WEIGHT WITH HIM. TOURE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EXIM BANK; THIS WOULD REPRESENT A USEFUL SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF RELEVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
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